



THE EXPERIMENT *BEGINS!*

LAB RATS



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BY
JOHN
BYRNE

GAME SPACE

SHIT! PEOPLE
DON'T LET ME
SHIT MAN!

DON'T
LET ME
SHIT!!

I'VE
SHOT YOU
DIE!

SHIT...



STREET



...YEAH?



THEY DID IT! THEY
REALLY WANT
AND DID IT?

AFTER ALL
OUR HARDSHIP,
KNOWING HOW
DANGEROUS IT COULD
BE!

AND NOW IT
WILL BE UP TO
ME TO BRING
UP THE ARMS!!

SORRY TO
INTRODUCE, BUT
THE PROBLEM IN
THIS THERE'S A
PROBLEM...

MR.
GIBBINS?



WELL,
THIS JUST
COINCIDES



GARY KNOWS
I HAVE TO GET
LEFT OUT IN A
HURRY...

COULD
SAVE I GOTTA
BEAT IN MY
ROOM UNTIL THE
OTHERS GET
BACK...

WHY WOULD
HE WANT ME
OUT IN THE
NEW
INSTEAD...



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LOOK OUT!

ALERT! SUPERCHARGE THE AUTO-HEAT!!
GET HIM OUT OF HERE!!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

IT'S TOO STRONG FOR ME!!

I CAN'T BRING HIS GUN!!

LET ME TRY SOMETHING!!

THAT WON'T DO IT!!

I JUST DID, DANA

NOW STAND BACK, ALL OF YOU!!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!

LET'S SEE HOW HE LIKES A WHOLE LOT FULL OF TRASH!!





"TWO WOUNDS IN-BLUE, DIDN'T WANT ME JAILBROD TODAY?"

"HOL, GOT NEW BLOOD COMING IN..."



"AND WE WON'T LET ANY OF US GETTING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET BEFORE WE'VE BEEN KILLED BY A CAR!"



"VERY VERY MINOR... WE US."

"AM I KNOWING JUST HOW FAR WOULD WANT ME TO DO?"



"WHAT... THE PLACE?"

"JUST KEEP MOVING, KID."

"THROW BACK, TURN BACK!"



CARE TO
TELL ME
NOW, HUH?



THAT LITTLE
STUNT OF YOURS
AND YOU
CHARGED OFF THE
T-REX...



BUT YOU'VE
TAKEN OVER ALL
THE CONTROLS
INTERFACES! IT'S
ALL I CAN DO TO
STAY ALIVE!

YOU DUDE!
YOU STILL
DON'T GET IT,
DO YOU?



THE GAME
PLAYBOOK
SAYS WHAT?
BARE WE THINK
IT WILL DO?

YOU'VE
ALREADY
TRAINED TO
FLY THIS.

SHUT UP,
DICKHEAD.
AND I'LL SHOW
YOU.



SAVE I AM,
ANY OF US ARE.
AS LONG AS
WE BELIEVE WE
CAN.

THAT'S WHY
EVERYTHING
GOES WRONG IN
HERE. THAT'S
WHY THE BEST
TWO-TWO DIED!

THAT'S
WHY WE'RE
READY!







WUT NOTHING IN THIS SCENE
HAD BEEN WHAT
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE

NOT SINCE
THE VERY
FIRST MOMENT
WE...

POE!!



OWIE,
GROSS MY HAND!
GROSS MY HANDS!

I DON'T
THINK SO
BROT!

I DON'T
WANT TO END
UP LIKE
GARY!



HEY, TRY
SOMETHING
BROT!

WU!!

HEY, AHEAD
OF YOU,
DANAL!







SO—THESE
THINGS CAN
BE REVERSED?
BEFORE SUN EAT
MURTY?

HEAT,
MURRAY—SUN EAT,
BUT THAT'S
WHAT WE'RE
HERE FOR.

IT'S LIKE
FORGET THE
CANNON START
NEED TO
CANNON-OUT
IT...



BUT
SUN EAT
WERE JUST
A BUNCH OF
LAD RATS.



WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING, POOL?

JUST WHAT
IT SOUNDS
LIKE, DANA.

BUT IT
OVERSIGHTS
THE CONCEPT
AND GOES
STRAIGHT TO
THE DEEP
UNDERGROUND...

THE GAME
PLAY FROM THIS
PERSPECTIVE
TO THE MINDS
OF THE
TERRIBLE.
THAT'S WHAT
MAKES IT ALL
SO REALISTIC.

SO... ANY
THING THE
USERS CAN
DOING CAN
CHANGE THE
PLOTLINE
SAFETY
PROTOCOLS.

SO LIKE
WHAT CAN
SCIENCE
FIGURE THAT
OUT BEFORE?

AND HOW
DOES IT
HELP US??

WELL,
TO START WITH,
IT MAKES THE
SUN DO...



...THROUGH



HA!

WHAT
DO YOU
DO?!

I
CHANGED
THE READ-
DATA.

OH MORE
EXACTLY. I
REPROGRAMMED
THEM.

OH CRAP!
TALK TO BOSS!
THESE THINGS
ARE COMING FROM
THE DEPT'S OF
OUR BRAND. WE
CAN'T
CONTROL...

I KNOW, TRYING TO SEE WHO IT WASN'T JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE!

IF THAT'S POSSIBLE, SENSE IT'S ALREADY BEEN PEOPLE!

BUT DID THE BEST YOU CAN TO THEM GOOD THINGS, PEOPLE?

THE PLAT- FORM IS RIPPING ON HATE AND FEAR.

AND THAT'S WHY YOU DIED! YOU KNOW SEE THE BLOOD-POURING OUTSIDE!

WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE TO WIN THIS BATTLE BEFORE IT KILLS US ALL!

AND KEEP OUR THINGS IN HAND, PEOPLE! WE ALL KNOW SHE SOMETHING HAD SOME TENDENCY.

BUT THIS GAME BECAUSE DON'T BECAUSE MORE CONTROLLABLE WHEN WE LOSE HERE.

THIS GAME WILL LIKE ALL US?

YES, AND I KNOW WHAT TENDENCY WASN'T HAD THOSE KINDS OF GOOD THOUGHTS?

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU MEAN-IF WE'VE EVER HAD THOUGHTS OF YOUR OURSELVES IN...

LOSE OUTSIDE!

"THAT MEANS OUR OWN NIGHTMARES ARE STILL RUNNING THIS GAME!"



ONE OF US CAN'T BE DOING THAT!!

WELL, CAREFUL YOU THINK THIS IS ALL BEING FIRED IN FROM OUTSIDE...

DUNLAP WOULDN'T DO THAT, DUNLAP! NOT EVEN DUNLAP!!



ENOUGH FOR ME RIGHT, ALEX?

WELL, IT'S GOING TO BE HARD ENOUGH SAVING THIS MACHINERY AS IT IS!!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?



THAT'S RIGHT
TO THE
SCALE

DON'T
LET IT!

KEEP IT
LOCKED IN ITS
OWN ROOM
ALONE

ORIGINALLY IT
MIGHT BE THE
BEST THING
THE V.A.

THEY MAY
NEED IT TO
FIGHT
WHATEVER'S
HAPPENING TO
THEM!

THE PLAT-
FORMS
SUFFICE TO
HOLD
ANYBODY!

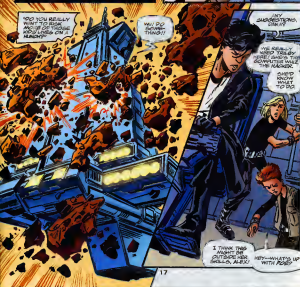


NO... I TRUSTED
JOE MYSELF.
HE THING THE
DAME MAY
DO...

IF I WAS IN
THERE, IF I HAD
TO FIGHT
WHATEVER THE
PLATFORM WAS
TEACHING AT...

OH, LORD
YOU'RE GOT ONE
OF YOUR OWN
MEMBER AS A
DON'T YOU?

IN THE
NAME OF
HUMANITY,
GODDAMN...



WOW YOU REALLY
WANT TO BE
A PART OF THIS
WOW LOOK ON A
MOMENT!

WOW DO
SOMETHING!

LET
SOMETHING
GO AWAY

IT'S REALLY
NEED TO
HERE! AND THE
COMPUTER WILL
THE MACHINE

SHOULD
KNOW
WHAT
TO DO

I THINK THIS
MIGHT BE
OUTSIDE HER
GODS, ALSO!

HEY--WHAT'S UP
WITH THIS?



DON'T TALK TO ME, ALEX.

DON'T TRY TO BRAGK MY... EDITION TUTION

GODDAMN YOU, YOU'RE THE ONE DOING ALL THIS, IT?

DON'T GO, THE POLICE, YOU'LL GET EVERYTHING THE PLATFORM HAS.

I KNOW... GINA.

DON'T GO, YOU KNOW? YOU'RE DOING ME ALL THIS?

GIVE IT UP, MOM!

DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU!

YEAH! COME ON, MOM! BEHOLD IN MARCH! TRICKLES WITHOUT YOU, HARMED IT WORKS!

NO!



DOE IS
RIGHT! I SHOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
OF IT MYSELF!

THE ONLY WAY
THE GUN WOULD
FIRE IS BY
OVERLOADING
THE SYSTEM
MEMORY.

OVER-
LOADING?

NOT 'THE
SYSTEM,'
ASSEMBLY
TOWER!

FEEL UP 'THE
GAME
PLATFORM'
WITH JACKIE
THAT IT'S NOT
PROBABLY...



COME
ON! WE'VE
ALL GOT TO
CON-
TAIN IT!

USE OUR
POWERED
HANDS TO
SHUT IT
OFF DELIBERATELY.

ABOUT OUR
ANALOGOUS
MEDIA HAVE
BEEN CREATING
ACCIDENTALLY!

DEER...

DON'T WASTE
THAT THING!
AND IT'S NOT
YOUR STUCK
GIFT ANYWAY.



LET
YOUR
HANDS GO!

WORN THE
RECORDED
OF YOUR WORST
NIGHTMARES!

GULING...





"AND I THINK I KNOW JUST THE PLACE FOR YOU TO GO TO GET THAT!"

"ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT
THIS
TRAPPER?"

"SURELY! IF
THE FIVE GLOBES
HUNT, WE MUST
GET OUT OF THIS
AREA SO BAD..."

"THERE
MUST BE
SOMETHING
NEW
SCHOOL IN
HERE!"

"WHAT'S THAT
PUNNY SENSE?"
IT'S
LIKE... SENSE

"REMEMBER
IT
FROM
SCHOOL CLASS."

"IT'S NOT
SCHOOL, IT'S
SOMETHING
MORE LIKE..."

"SCHOOL...
SCHOOL...
SCHOOL..."

"ON
DETECTIVE
SCHOOL!"

"WE
SHOULD GET
OUT!"

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LAB REPORTS

Too early for letters this time around, but be sure to let us know what you think about the 'Rats. You can write to us at DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019 or, if you're a more modern sort, e-mail us at dcdumast@dc.com.

—Ivan Cohen
An experiment gone wrong



NEXT ISSUE:

After the events of this issue, what the Lab Rats need more than anything is a vacation from the Campus they call home. Too bad the amusement park they find themselves in is anything but recreational!

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